



217 Main Street • Hiram • GA • 30141
Phone (770) 943-3726 • Fax (770) 439-2372

*Mayor Doris A. Devey
Prather Rollins, Mayor Pro Tem*

Councilmembers

*Derrick Battle
Kathy Bookout*

*Teresa Philyaw
Kathy Carter*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Relations/Media Inquiries:

Robbie Rokovitz
rokovitz@hram-ga.us
217 Main Street
Hiram, GA 30144
770-943-3726 ext. 2016

Hiram & UGA Prepare Parents and Teens with P.R.I.D.E. for Driver Education

Hiram, Georgia – December 19, 2014 – Changes in the TADRA Law for teen drivers put parents squarely in the passenger's seat. It requires that anyone who applies for a permanent driver's license must have a parent, legal guardian or responsible adult sign a verification form affirming that the candidate has completed 40 hours (with 6 hours at night) of supervised driving experience, if the candidate has successfully completed an approved driver education course.

Most parents don't feel prepared, or may not know what they need to do, to supervise a new teen driver behind the wheel. But parental involvement is critical to reducing teen crashes and fatalities. Teens want the practice time so they can get their license, but need to know how to communicate with their nervous parents. The Georgia Traffic Injury Prevention Institute (GTIPI) at The University of Georgia is bringing P.R.I.D.E.—Parents Reducing Injuries and Driver Error—to help Paulding County parents prepare their 14-, 15- and 16-year-olds to drive.

"P.R.I.D.E. is an excellent orientation to the driver education process and teen driving laws. It's designed to help young people become better decision makers, especially as new drivers," says Frankie Jones, GTIPI's Director. It will help parents and their new teen drivers learn what they need to do during those 40 hours of driving time and reduce risk-taking behavior and youth related car crashes," continued Jones.

GTIPI is working with Sgt. Jesse Dunbar and Officer Stephen Johnston of Hiram Police Department to offer the free, 2-hour P.R.I.D.E. seminar, a standardized UGA course offered statewide. GTIPI is funded by a grant from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety.

"Paulding County is a rural area, which offers unique driving situations and problems for first-time drivers," Sergeant Jesse Dunbar said.

The Georgia Teens Ride with P.R.I.D.E. classes will complement the Paulding County driver education program and will help parents and guardians become more aware of their own driving behaviors, teach parents and guardians how to help their teens become safe drivers, help parents, guardians and teens learn what they need to do during the supervised practice driving time, and alter attitudes and driving behaviors of novice teen drivers.

The course will be offered monthly from 7-9 pm at the Hiram Police Department. A teen and at least one parent or guardian must register to attend. Call the police department office at 770-943-3087, email Sjohnston@hram-ga.gov, or stop by the Hiram Police Department to get registered.

###